United Nations S/2015/248

Security Council

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13 April 2015

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Letter dated 10 April 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations dated 31 March 2015 and a report on the activities of Operation Sangaris in the Central African Republic, for transmittal to the Security Council in accordance with its resolution 2149 (2014) (see annex).

(*Signed*) **BAN Ki-moon**

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Annex

[Original: French]

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations Secretariat, and has the honour to inform it of the following: pursuant to paragraph 47 of Security Council resolution 2149 (2014), the Permanent Mission of France transmits herewith the report on the actions undertaken by French forces from 15 November 2014 to 15 March 2015 in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) (see enclosure).

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations would be grateful if the United Nations Secretariat would bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Enclosure

Operation Sangaris

Support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic in the discharge of its mandate

Period under review: 15 November 2014 to 15 March 2015

1. Basis of support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

In accordance with Security Council resolution 2149 (2014), paragraph 47, the technical agreement of 3 October 2014 authorizes the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to request French forces to use all necessary means to provide operational support if there is a clear indication of a grave and imminent danger to its staff, premises or assets.

The general chief of staff of French forces has tasked the Sangaris force with supporting MINUSCA, within the limits of its capacities and areas of deployment. It should gradually hand over full responsibility for those areas, while retaining a reserve role for the benefit of MINUSCA.

2. Context of support actions

From mid-November 2014 to mid-March 2015, as a direct result of developments in the crisis, joint Sangaris-MINUSCA actions and Sangaris actions in support of MINUSCA have taken place in a changing environment.

2.1 Developments in the size of the Sangaris force

During the period under review, the security situation in the Central African Republic improved and MINUSCA grew in strength. As a result, the numbers of the Sangaris force were gradually reduced. At the time of writing, the force comprised some 1,700 soldiers in two robust combined arms battle groups.

2.2 Developments in the area of responsibility of the Sangaris force

During the period under review, the Sangaris force modified its area of action as and when MINUSCA grew in strength. In the course of its operations, it deployed temporarily to N'Délé, Grimari, Dékoa and Bria, thereby extending its area of action from Bangui to N'Délé and from Sibut to Bria. At the end of February, the Sangaris force withdrew from Bria, bringing its eastern limit back to Bambari.

2.3 Development of the area of responsibility of MINUSCA

On 15 September 2014, MINUSCA took over from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA). Since then, its numbers have steadily grown. In accordance with its strategic concept of operations, it is expected to reach full operational capacity by 30 April 2015. In addition to increasing its numbers, the United Nations force has extended its area of action, gradually taking over in the areas where the Sangaris force had previously

been deployed, as had happened in the West of the country and subsequently, in the early stages, in the East and the central corridor.

3. **Generic actions undertaken by the Sangaris force**

- France's operational actions are guided by respect for human rights and international conventions.
  - With regard to prevention, the Sangaris force has adopted a deterrent posture based on local-level patrols in support of MINUSCA.
  - The Sangaris force and MINUSCA react decisively to abuses, intervening as swiftly as possible in order to bring the abuses to an end.
- In the context of confidence-building measures, the Sangaris force has been supporting MINUSCA by implementing and overseeing measures for the disarmament and barracking of armed groups in its areas of deployment. In the exploitation phase following the Bria operation, which took place in close coordination with MINUSCA on 10 February 2015, the Sangaris force carried out intensified checks to ensure compliance with those measures.
- The joint action of the Sangaris force and MINUSCA has contributed significantly to the overall improvement in the security situation of the Central African Republic. Bangui, Sibut, Bambari, N'Délé and Bria are cases in point.
- Lastly, the ongoing work of the Sangaris force alongside MINUSCA has facilitated the resumption of economic activity in its areas of deployment. This is particularly true of the central corridor and Bangui, but also of the main roads, such as the road connecting Cameroon to Bangui.

4. **Substantive support provided to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic**

- Nine French soldiers, including the chief of general staff of MINUSCA, have been integrated on an ongoing basis into the general staff of MINUSCA, where they help to ensure that the two international forces understand one another's intentions.
- In the same vein, a liaison detachment comprising six Sangaris officers maintains a constant presence at MINUSCA field headquarters and in the sector headquarters of the joint operational force of MINUSCA police. From the end of March 2015, the liaison detachment will be strengthened so that teams can be incorporated into the three provincial sector headquarters of Bouar, Kaga Bandoro and Bria respectively, with five French soldiers at each. That temporary deployment will enable the Sangaris force to keep abreast of the situation in areas monitored by MINUSCA, exchange situation assessments and coordinate any Sangaris operations for the benefit of MINUSCA.
- The French and MINUSCA force commanders regularly interact in a unified manner with the transitional authorities and the main political and military actors in order to coordinate their joint actions. The general officers commanding the two forces meet each week.

- As regards coordination and mutual support, planning cells J5/J35 of the joint field command post of the Sangaris force and planning cells of U5/U35 of MINUSCA meet every two weeks to plan the military operations of the two forces.
- The Sangaris force and MINUSCA have regularly carried out coordinated patrols in the areas where French forces were deployed. Since mid-November 2014, the Sangaris force has carried out some 50 patrols in support of MINUSCA, particularly in Sibut and Bria.
- Some joint operations have also taken place since mid-November. Since mid-January 2015, the role of the Sangaris force in such operations has focused on a MINUSCA-first approach. The most recent operations, which were intended to retake administrative buildings in Bria and then in Bambari, adopted that approach.
- In the area of logistics, France has supported the contingents of Congo and Gabon within MINUSCA by making available and maintaining 47 vehicles. The Sangaris force also refuels United Nations aircraft at Bria and N'Délé, where neither MINUSCA nor private Central African fuel suppliers are present.
- Lastly, in terms of medical support, among other actions, the Sangaris force has conducted seven surgeries and provided paramedical assistance in 446 cases for MINUSCA over the last four months. MINUSCA has established three level II hospitals, in Bangui, Kaga Bandoro and Bria respectively. Pending such a time as those hospitals can perform at full capacity, the French medical team at the advanced surgical facility of Bangui is providing the bulk of level II support for the 9,000 MINUSCA soldiers.

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Letter dated 9 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 31 March 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Yemen to the United Nations and its attachment, which contain unfounded allegations against my Government, and further to my letter of 23 March 2015 (S/2015/207), I categorically reject such allegations, that are fabricated to distract attention from the misguided and failed policies that have led to the current political and humanitarian crisis in Yemen. I would like also to bring the following to your kind attention:

- In principle, foreign military intervention has never led to the resolution of any dispute, and the current air strikes against Yemen won't be an exception.
- The bombing campaign further destabilizes Yemen and could lead to a prolonged and bloody civil war. It stokes and exacerbates the ongoing conflict in the country, and, if unchecked, will turn it into a protracted torment.
- Tragically, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, ISIS and other extremist and terrorist groups in the region are the only beneficiaries of the current destabilizing air strikes and are poised to further benefit from the space created by the bombing to control larger territory in Yemen and turn it into an infested breeding ground for their nefarious purposes.
- The conflict in Yemen is entirely local, not regional. Nor is it sectarian. The preposterous narratives trying to depict it as merely a battleground between Sunnis and Shiites are entirely erroneous and invented simply to advance the interests of the foreigners. A brief look at the recent history and societal mosaic of Yemen, as well as the composition of the parties, clearly demonstrate the nature of what is going on there.
- As there could never be a military solution for the conflict in that country, the immediate cessation of the bombing campaign and a genuine push for a political solution is the only responsible approach to the crisis. A Yemenite-led dialogue and conciliation process among all Yemeni political and social groups is the only way to resolve the Yemeni predicament. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the United Nations-led efforts in restoring peace and stability in Yemen and fully abides by its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen.

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- As foreign military as well as terrorist attacks have deteriorated the humanitarian situation in Yemen, Iran, while doing whatever is in its power to help alleviate the plight of the Yemeni people, calls on the international community, including international organizations, to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Yemen.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2015/250

Security Council

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15 April 2015
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Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 13 April 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith the points that were agreed on at the second Moscow consultative meeting in relation to the first agenda item proposed by the meeting's facilitator, which concerns the assessment of the current situation in Syria (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haydar **Ali Ahmad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 13 April 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The points that were agreed on at the second Moscow consultative meeting regarding the agenda item on the assessment of the current situation

1. To resolve the crisis in Syria by political means, on the basis of mutual consent and the Geneva principles of 30 June 2012.

2. To call on the international community to apply immediately effective pressure on all Arab, regional and international parties that are contributing to the killing of Syrians to implement the Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism and halt all forms of support for terrorism, including facilitating the passage of terrorists into Syria, as well as training, financing, arming and harbouring them.

3. To call on the international community to lift immediately and completely the blockade and all unilateral, coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian people and its institutions.

4. The outcomes of any political process must be based on national sovereignty and the democratic expression of the will of the people.

5. Any political process must be developed on a consensual basis among Syrians, including the Government and the actors, parties and movements that believe in a political solution.

6. To support and foster the national reconciliation processes, which help to achieve a political solution and support the Army and the armed forces in countering terrorism.

7. To call on the international community to help Syrian refugees return to their country and create the conditions for the return of displaced persons.

8. Any political process must be based on the following:

(a) Maintaining national sovereignty;

(b) The unity of the Syrian people and the territorial integrity of Syria;

(c) Preserving and developing State institutions and enhancing their performance;

(d) The rejection of any political solution based on racial, religious or sectarian quotas;

(e) A commitment to the liberation of all occupied Syrian territory;

(f) The only way to bring about a political solution is inter-Syrian dialogue led by Syrians, without external interference.

9. A political solution will enable the Syrian people to mobilize its resources to confront and defeat terrorism. Such a solution must ensure that weapons are in the control of State institutions.

10. To call on the international community to support the consensus regarding a comprehensive political solution that will emerge from the Moscow meetings, in preparation for its adoption at the third Geneva conference.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 107
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 13 April 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit the following information.

On Saturday, 11 April 2015, the city of Aleppo became the victim of yet another crime. Armed terrorist groups deliberately fired numerous missiles at the peaceful civilian areas of Sulaymaniyah, Shayhan and Salahuldin, killing 19 civilians, including five children and nine women, and injuring 90 others, including 11 children and 17 women. The debris has not yet been cleared, so the final toll could be higher still. Some body parts have yet to be identified. There was also extensive damage to residential buildings and public and private property.

This crime was part of a series of terrorist reprisals against the stalwart people of Aleppo city, who have formed an impregnable barrier against the armed terrorist groups. It coincided with the consultative meeting that was recently held in Moscow and resulted in consensus on a number of important points. The regimes of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan and Turkey are therefore sending a clear message through their proxies, the so-called moderate opposition, in order to undermine any political solution to be agreed among Syrians without outside interference. That opposition has used new destructive weapons which were provided to the terrorists by those very same States. The weapons, which are supposedly non-lethal, caused several four-storey buildings to collapse on their innocent civilian residents.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that the terrorist operations could not continue without the ongoing direct support afforded to such terrorist *takfirist* organizations as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Free Army, the Army of Islam, the Islamic Front, the Nusrah Front, Liwa' al-Tawhid, Liwa' al-Fath, Ahrar al-Sham and the Ansar Front, organizations that espouse extremist Wahhabi ideology and whose fighters come from over 90 States. Nor could they continue if certain States — including France, the United Kingdom, Jordan and the United States of America, some of which are permanent members of

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the Security Council — did not guarantee their impunity and provide them with weapons, explosives and other lethal materials. The terrorist organizations' capacity to mount such deadly attacks will come to an end. The true scandal is that the States that are involved in shedding Syrian blood have prevented the inclusion of certain terrorist organizations, including the so-called Islamic State, on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities.

The Security Council must uphold its commitment to combating terrorism and extremist terrorist groups by implementing its counter-terrorism resolutions, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), in word and deed without politicization or double standards. It must cooperate and coordinate fully with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, which has been fighting terrorism for several years on behalf of all peoples of the world, defending humanity, justice and freedom against the destructive ideologies of extremism and zealotry.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is determined to continue combating terrorism in Syria. In accordance with its constitutional responsibilities, it will defend and protect its people. It therefore calls once again on the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to implement the relevant resolutions of the Council by condemning this terrorist act and taking action against the terrorist groups and their State sponsors, particularly the regimes in power in Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and France and certain other Western States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haydar **Ali Ahmad**
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.